

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-08 PRS-01 SAM-01 /042 W

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R 241445Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6340

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0580

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TP, US

SUBJ: LIBERATION OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2651; (B) LUANDA 1112, 12/21/74

1. MR. DA GRACA HAS NOT YET CONTACTED US, BUT WE APPRECIATE
REF A IN THE EVENT HE DOES.

2. IT WOULD SEEM CLEAR TO US THAT IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE
AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND UNREALISTIC IN PRACTICE (IN
VIEW OF OUR PAUCITY OF INFORMATION) TO BECOME INVOLVED IN
QUARRELS BETWEEN CONTENDING FACTIONS WITHIN MLSTP.

3. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT INDEPENDENCE OF SAO TOME AND
PRINCIPE IS NOW LESS THAN THREE MONTHS AWAY, HOWEVER, IT
WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE THAT WE (A) NOT DELAY ANY FURTHER
DECISION AS TO WHICH POST IN AFRICA WILL BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE AND (B) TAKE STEPS SOON TO ENTER
INTO MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH NEW LEADERS.

4. GOOD BEGINNING WAS MADE BY VISIT TO SAO TOME OF
REPRESENTATIVE FROM OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN LUANDA AND WE

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NOW HAVE NAMES OF PRINCIPLE LEADERS INVOLVED (REF B)

MOST OF WHOM ARE EITHER NOW IN SAO TOME OR LIBREVILLE.

5. I DO NOT KNOW, OF COURSE, WHAT IF ANYTHING THE USG IS PREPARED TO DO IN THE WAY OF ASSISTANCE TO THIS SMALL COUNTRY, BUT IT WOULD SEEM CLEAR THAT IF WE ARE PREPARED TO EXTEND ANY AID AT ALL THE TIME TO BEGIN EXPLORING IT IS NOW. THE SAD EXAMPLE OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA ELOQUENTLY DEMONSTRATES HOW EVENTS CAN RAPIDLY FORGE A MOLD WHICH CANNOT EASILY BE CHANGED IF THE CRUCIAL MOMENT TO ACT IS ALLOWED TO PASS.

6. WITH NO PERSONAL AXE TO GRIND (FOR OBVIOUS REASONS), I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN LIBREVILLE IS PROBABLY THE MOST LOGICAL PERSON TO BE CHARGED WITH COORDINATING THESE RESPONSIBILITIES AND EVENTUALLY BE ACCREDITED TO SAO TOME. HE MIGHT BE ASSISTED IN THE EARLY CONTACT PHASE BY AN OFFICER ASSIGNED PERHAPS FROM WASHINGTON OR LUANDA. OTHER ALTERNATIVES ARE, OF COURSE POSSIBLE. THE IMPORTANT THING WOULD SEEM TO BE TO DECIDE NOW AND TO ACT WHILE WE CAN STILL EXERT SOME INFLUENCE ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS.

MCKESSON

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